



*Learning, Achieving, Succeeding!*

VALLEY STREAM CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
VALLEY STREAM, NEW YORK

# Valley Stream CHSD Online Elective Course Initiative

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PRESENTERS:

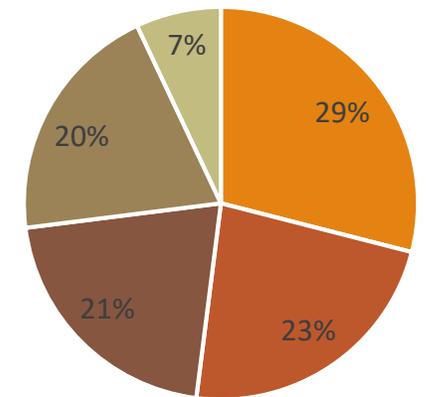
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# VSCHSD: A Diverse Learning Community

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- 4,600 students (Grades 7-12) housed in 4 secondary schools
- 23% White, 21% African American, 20% Asian, 29% Latino, 7% Multi-Racial
- Approximately 30% *Free & Reduced Lunch recipients*
- 5% of student body is classified as *English Language Learners*
- Approximately 12% of our students have *IEPs*
- No significant learning gaps appear between racial/ethnic student groups
- District achieved 309 *Advanced Placement Scholars* in 2017
- Almost 100% of students graduate by August of their Senior year
- 96% of Graduating Seniors attend higher education

Demographics



- Latino 29%
- White 23%
- African American 21%
- Asian 20%
- Multi-Racial 7%

# Our Instructional Mission

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- Provide students with rich and varied learning experiences 24/7 and 365 days per year
- Overcome obstacles in the traditional 9-period day that restrict student learning
- Maximize NYS aid and tax revenues that are available for instructional programs
- Provide students with learning experiences that will likely promote success in college and/or the workplace

# Implementation Plan

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- Researched opportunities for better **integration of student technology** in the learning experience
- Discovered a potential solution in our own backyard ... **Nassau BOCES**
- Presented a proposal to the **Superintendent's Cabinet** and earned the approval of district and building leadership
- Met with **Guidance Counselors** to discuss the implementation and to gain feedback about course selections for initial offering
- Announced the program to our **Department Chairs and Teachers' Union Leadership** while pointing out teaching opportunities within the online learning program
- Selected the following courses for the offering in September of 2017:  
***Introduction to Veterinary Science, Introduction to Social Media, Hospitality and Tourism, Entrepreneurship, and Criminal Justice***

# Implementation Plan (continued)

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- Attended opening week grade-level assembly programs at each of our 3 high schools during which time we introduced students to the course offerings, student-parent contract, and orientation sessions

We targeted 100 potential enrollments for the 2017-18 school year

- 30 enrollments (Juniors) for the fall semester
  - 70 for the spring pending success in the fall
- 28 students were provided with an orientation session during which they learned how to navigate the program's "Buzz" platform
  - Ongoing support (virtually and in person) was provided via Nassau BOCES and District staff relative to progress monitoring and student counseling

# Our Results

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- 65% of our first online class successfully completed their coursework within the 18 week fall semester
- A few students dropped out within the first month for a variety of reasons (within the allotted drop period with modest resulting cost)
- A few students were granted an extension to complete coursework
- The most popular course and the one in which students demonstrated the highest level of achievement was ***Introduction to Veterinary Science***
- The online course experience opens additional student opportunities for further study and internships with higher education institutions and Nassau BOCES
- The program opens cooperation between VSCHSD and local businesses including our local hospital

# What We Learned

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- Students surveyed indicated that **“time management”** was their single greatest challenge in taking an online course
- Students taking online courses require a different form of **mentoring** by their teachers, guidance counselors and administrators
- Regular student **progress monitoring** is one of the keys to success
- Scheduled **parental contact** is also a key factor in promoting and achieving success
- All students need to complete the required ***Foundations of Online Learning Module*** prior to beginning content coursework



# What We Did Differently for the Spring

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- ✓ Instead of large group recruitment, we literally went class to class
- ✓ We are now requiring 2 things:
  1. Foundations course must be completed prior to enrollment
  2. All students must attend the first 3 virtual face-to-face sessions
- ✓ We added new courses for the spring:

*Introduction to Health Sciences*

*Game Design 1*

*Music Appreciation*

**62 students have enrolled in online courses for the spring semester!**

# Affordability/Feasibility

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- Online learning addresses the time and space concerns associated with the traditional 9 period school day
- Provides opportunity for cost-effective delivery of typically low-enrollment subjects
- Typical Instructional Costs:
  - 25 student class costs \$800 per student to deliver
  - 16 student class costs \$1250 per student to deliver
  - Online classes cost under \$600 per student to deliver and are
  - NYS tech-aided from 30% to over 70%

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Your Thoughts?

